

Contd.
a1

6. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is from 0.20 μm to 0.37 μm .
7. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is from 0.07 μm to 0.17 μm
8. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that it contains at least one birefringent layer.

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10. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the optical retardation of the birefringent layer or of the birefringent layers $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{BL}]$ corresponds either to essentially half or essentially twice the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{LC}]$.

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13. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the switching element contains no birefringent layer.

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15. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer in the fully switched state is from 0 nm to 80 nm, preferably from 0 nm to 40 nm.

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16. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the liquid-crystal layer has positive dielectric anisotropy.

17. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it can be operated in normally white mode.

18. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it is a reflective liquid-crystal switching element.

19. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it is a transmissive liquid-crystal switching element.

20. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the liquid-crystal layer has negative dielectric anisotropy.

21. (Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal device, characterized in that it contains a liquid-crystal switching element or a plurality of liquid-crystal switching elements according to Claim 1.

23. (Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal display device according to Claim 21, characterized in that the liquid-crystal switching elements are addressed by means of a matrix of active electrical switching elements.

24. (Amended) Use of an electro-optical liquid-crystal switching element or a plurality of electro-optical liquid-crystal switching elements according to Claim 1 in a liquid-crystal display device.